

perfectly dry, a second. These two will be sufficient.

"The isinglass-water must be applied lightly, and never passed twice over the same spot until the first coat be dry, otherwise the drawing will become smeary. Care also must be taken to clear the drawing from every particle of dust before commencing the operation, and to preserve it from the same afterwards, till it be perfectly dry; otherwise in the former case it will be cloudy and smutty, and in the latter the particles will so adhere as never to be removed. Finally, the brushes also must be perfectly clean. A better plan of passing over the isinglass wash than by means of the brush, is, to pour it into a flat vessel, such as a dish, and insert the drawing into the composition, laying the paper flat immediately afterwards. This will preclude the chance of its becoming smeared, which, in the case of drawings of considerable vigour in touch, or of powerful shading, will occasionally happen to the most cautious user of the brush."

SCAGLIOLA COLUMNS.

Sir,—It being a pretty general rule with architects to employ in interior decorations that require magnificence some one of the orders, in which is frequently employed scagliola columns of a strong colour, frequently green, capitals and bases of white marble, and the entablature of common plaster, I should feel obliged if you or any of your correspondents would inform me if such a mixture of colours and materials are considered good taste.

I wish it to be understood that I am not condemning the practice of employing columns in the decorative part of architecture. but it is to the strangeness of the mixture so collected I make an objection, and at the same time should be glad to be informed if there is any composition in use, or that may be used in connection, that would be more consonant and in keeping with scagliola than plaster?

By inserting this inquiry you will oblige

Yours very respectfully,

J. PICKARD.

September 19, 1813.

ASSESSED TAXES CASES.

Determined by the Judges on Appeal.

(No. 1495.)—Windows—Closing same—Continued occupancy.

A man, previously deceased, was assessed in 1834-5 for eighteen windows: his widow since that opened six windows which had been closed up with lath and plaster, and two with boards. She had opened two new ones also. Held, that the deceased husband being assessed in 1834-5, it was not to be considered as the assessment of the appellant, and therefore she was not entitled to open any new ones, and also that the two closed with boards only should have been assessed in 1834-5, and not being so, there was no due assessment thereon.

At a meeting of the commissioners, held at the Red Lion Inn, Dorking, on Monday, the 28th day of September, 1840 (18 Geo. 3. c. 55, s. 4. A.)—*Mrs. Sarah Young, widow, appealed by her son, John Young, against a charge from eighteen to twenty-six windows or lights, in her house, for the year 1840. In the year 1834 the windows in this house were assessed to and in the name of her late husband, Mr. Young, and in number eighteen (43 Geo. 3. c. 161, s. 18). Since the passing of the Act of the 4 & 5 Will. 4. c. 54, Mrs. Young, who has continued in the house since her husband's death, has opened four windows which were closed up with lath and plaster, and two more windows which were closed up with boards. These six windows the commissioners adjudged to have been closed in the year 1834, and to have been re-opened since the passing of the Act of 4 & 5 Will. 4. Two other windows have been opened, one in the door, the other in the cellar, for which the appellant has now been assessed, increasing the whole number from eighteen to twenty. The commissioners have considered the continued occupancy of the widow the same as that of the husband for the purpose of this Act, he having died since 1834.*

The surveyor thereupon demanded a case for the opinion of her Majesty's judges, and submitted that as Mrs. Young was not assessed in the year 1834 (the assessment in that year having been in her husband's name), she was not entitled to open any windows under the said Act, and further, that as two of the windows were made up with wood only, they were not duly assessed in the year 1834, and therefore that all the twenty-six windows or lights in her house are liable to be assessed for the year 1840.

W. CRAWFORD, } Commissioners.
ED. KERRICK, }

18th May, 1841.—We are of opinion, that the determination of the commissioners is wrong:

J. PATTERSON. T. COLTMAN. W. WIGHTMAN.
—Justice of the Peace.

NEW PATENTS SEALED IN ENGLAND.

(From the Repertory of Patent Inventions.)

SIX MONTHS FOR ENROLMENT.

Bryan Corcoran, of Mark-lane, London, merchant, for certain improvements in the grinding of wheat and other substances,—being a communication.—Sealed Aug. 25.

IRISH PATENTS.

To John Hutcheson, flax grower, and James Edgar, carpenter, both of Killycain, near Market-hill, in the county of Armagh, for improved machinery, which may be worked by water, steam, or any other propelling power, for breaking and scraping flax, on a system entirely new, without danger to human life; whereby the flax is greatly improved and cleaned in a very superior manner, and the value of it much enhanced.—Sealed August 10.

Christopher Nickels, of York-road, Lambeth, in the county of Surrey, Gent., for improvements in the manufacture of plaited fabrics.—Sealed August 12.

Charles Payne, of South Lambeth, in the county of Surrey, chemist, for improvements in preserving vegetable matters, when metallic and earthy solutions are employed.—Sealed August 12.

Sir John Scott Lillie, of Chelsea, in the county of Middlesex, Kent., for certain improvements in roads.—Sealed August 17.

Thomas Cardwell, of Bombay, in the East Indies, merchant, for improvements in the construction of presses for compressing cotton and other articles.—Sealed August 17.

SCOTCH PATENTS.

To Thomas Oldham, of Manchester, manufacturer, for a certain improved mode of manufacturing bonnets and hats.—Sealed July 24.

George Parsons, of West Lambrook, near South Petherton, Somersetshire, for a portable roof for various agricultural and other purposes.—Sealed July 26.

Samuel Ellis, of Salford, Manchester, engineer, for certain improvements in weighing machines, and in turn-tables, to be used on or in connection with railways, and in weighing machines to be used in other situations.—Sealed August 3.

Charlton James Wollaston, of Wellings, in the county of Kent, for improvements in machinery for cutting marble and stone,—being a foreign communication.—Sealed August 14.

Ernest Lentz, of Eastcheap, London, for improvements in machinery for raising and forcing water and other fluids, which machinery, when worked by steam or water, may be employed for driving machinery,—being a foreign communication.—Sealed August 3.

Edmund Morewood, of Thornbridge, Derbyshire, merchant, and George Rogers, of Chelsea, London, for improved processes for coating metals.—Sealed August 8.

Francis Roubillac Conder, of Highgate, London, civil engineer, for improvements in the cutting and shaping of wood, and in the machinery for that purpose,—being a foreign communication.—Sealed August 9.

Thomas, Earl of Dundonald, of Regent's Park, London, for improvements in rotatory or revolving engines, and in apparatus connected with steam-engines and in propelling vessels.—Sealed August 10.

Samuel Eccles, of Hulme, machinist, and Matthew Curtis, of Chorlton-upon-Medlock, machinist, for certain improvements in looms for weaving.—Sealed August 10.

Fennel Allman, of Salisbury-street, London, surveyor, for certain improvements in apparatus for the production and diffusion of light.—Sealed August 14.

William Bates, of Leicester, fuller and dresser, for improvements in the dressing and getting-up of hosiery goods and other looped fabrics, made from merino, lambs'-wool, worsted, cotton, silk, and other yarns.—Sealed August 14.

John Laird, of Birkenhead, in the county of Chester, ship-builder, for improvements in the construction of steam and other vessels.—Sealed August 16.

Gregory Seale Walters, of Coleman-street, London, merchant, for improvements in the manufacture of chlorine and chlorides, and in obtaining the oxides and peroxides of manganese in the residuary liquids of such manufacture,—being a foreign communication.—Sealed August 16.

(To be continued.)

Miscellaneous.

ANCIENT MODE OF PRODUCING PLANK.—At an early period, the trunks of trees were split into planks with wedges, and these were afterwards reduced by the operation of the adze. Before the middle of the sixteenth century, all the plank in Norway was hewn in this manner, and trees from which seven or eight boards could now be formed, then only produced two. This simple but wasteful mode has not in some parts of the north, been even yet entirely exploded; and it must be admitted that it is attended with some advantages which the use of the saw does not afford. The work is more expeditiously performed, and split timber is far stronger than that which has been sawn, for the fissure follows the grain of the wood, and leaves it undivided; whereas the saw, by cutting along a specific line, divides the fibres, and thus weakens its cohesion and solidity. Besides, as the fibres retain their natural position, they are easier bent, and this is an advantage in many kinds of work which more than compensates for the timber being sometimes warped.

WOOD PAVING IN CANADA.—The side-walks at Toronto are principally formed of wooden plank, placed longitudinally, as on a ship's deck, and forming a far more clean, dry, elastic, and comfortable material for walking on than any pavement of stone or brick. Not only are these wooden side-walks in general use, but in our instance a long road leading to Kingston has been formed with planks of fir. The planks are about fifteen feet in length, a foot in breadth, and an inch in thickness; they are sawn smoothly, but are not planed. The road is first levelled, and on the bed thus formed these planks are laid across transversely, and not lengthwise, as in the side-walks. A small portion of soil and dust is strewn over the whole, to prevent unnecessary friction on the wooden surface; so that, unless the attention of the traveller was called to the fact, he would not perceive the planks over which he was driving, though he would recognize the unusual smoothness of the road by the gentle motion of the carriage. But while to the casual observer this road presents the same earthy and dusty appearance as any other, there are no ruts or pits in it, scarcely, indeed, a mark of the horses' feet or the carriage-wheels that pass over it. On close examination, however, he will perceive the separate planks, and trace their lines of junction; and he will also hear the peculiar, dull, smooth sound given out by the low rumbling of his vehicle over this wooden pavement.

THE AGE OF READERS.—If you travel by railway, in stage-coach, steamer, or omnibus, be sure two-thirds of your companions are reading. If you breakfast, lunch, or dine, in coffee-house or club, the majority of your co-masticators have a newspaper or pamphlet beside them, to which they turn in the intervals of their repast. Some cannot walk along the streets without a book in hand, into which they dip by snatches, to the imminent peril of their own skins and those of other passengers, living editions of "the pursuit of knowledge under difficulties." Nor are these driving, masticating, and peripatetic readers of the class who, unable to find other and more convenient seasons for their studies, pick up what they can at these odd moments. They are, for the most part, persons who spend the greater part of their time in reading. The habit has so grown upon them that they cannot lay it aside. They prefer these uneasy methods of reading to laying aside their books altogether even for so short a period. They read as some people take drams, who cannot keep their noses longer than a quarter of an hour out of the gin-palace; and the mental health of the one, in consequence of this excess of repetition, thrives much after the fashion of the bodily health of the other. These are extreme cases; but, more or less, the tone of thought in the present age is, among all classes, injured by excess of reading. Newspapers and similar publications have, among others, this bad effect, that they increase the tendency to isolation created by extreme subdivision of occupations and the constant hurry of business in which we live. Men vibrate between their homes and their counting-houses. They are engaged in self-contemplation, or in looking at a few familiar faces, and are content to see the rest of the world in the mirror of the newspaper. To run out and gaze at a fire, for instance, would be vulgar; but they read the account of one in the morning papers eagerly. They do not go to the theatres, or to the picture-exhibitions, or to the church; but they read the criticisms of each and all in their newspapers. Hence, even at public places, we have no crowd, no assembly, but a mere juxtaposition of a number of small family parties. All this has an unhealthy influence on the mind. It gives a second-hand, common-place, unreal character to all a man's opinions. It fosters a disproportionate estimate of his own importance, and a callousness